

Item 8 - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending Board - Governance and Social Value Review

The attached report was considered by the Development & Conservation Advisory Committee on 5 December 2024. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Development & Conservation Advisory Committee (5 December 2024, Minute 27)

The Principal Infrastructure Delivery Officer presented the report, which set out the annual review of CIL governance, and how social value could be incorporated to the procedure. It was found that, although a qualitative assessment of the social benefits of a project was already an element of the process, there was scope for a quantitative measure to be included in some circumstances. This could be done through the use of a social value engine, where appropriate, similar to the Community Grants Scheme process. It was also recommended that the CIL funding application form be restructured to make it more user friendly.

In response to questions, the officer advised that the data and proxies for the social value engine would be obtained from the applicant. It was noted that smaller organisations may not have this data available and it was emphasised that the engine only be deployed where it was sensible to do so. The Council stayed in contact with applicants to ensure they were kept updated regarding the process.

Members noted that the last CIL governance review resulted in a provision for 15% of the CIL money allocated to the CIL Spending Board to be set aside to spend outside of the timescales of the Board. It was moved and duly seconded that it also be recommended to Cabinet that this 15% be capped at £200,000, with any money over and above this amount being returned to the CIL Spending Board for allocation. Members felt that £200,000 was appropriate to ensure the CIL Spending Board pot was maintained, whilst allowing for emergency funding for a range of small projects or one significant project, between meetings of the Spending Board, if required. The motion was put to the vote and it was

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that

- a) Where appropriate and achievable, to incorporate a measure of social value in assessing the social, economic and environmental benefits of infrastructure projects put forward for CIL funding, as set out in paragraphs 12-15 of this report;
- b) To restructure the CIL funding application form to be more user friendly, as set out in Appendix A to the report; and

c) That the 15% of the CIL money allocated to the CIL Spending Board set aside to spend outside of the timescales of the CIL Spending Board be capped at £200,000, with any money over and above this amount returned to the CIL Spending Board for allocation.